

**New Hampshire Racing & Charitable Gaming Commission
Bingo/Lucky 7 Workshop Minutes**

July 12, 2013

Commissioner Lynn M. Presby, Chairing

Commissioner Presby opened the workshop at 10:00 a.m. welcoming all attendees. He noted that this kickoff meeting was intended to gather information from the industry on their concerns/comments/ideas pertaining to the following agenda items, and not to set policy or change rules. He did note that any proposed changes affecting legislated items would have to be presented to the Legislature for approval in the fall. Changes pertaining to administrative issues would be presented to the Commission for approval.

Director Kelley spoke on the changes enacted for Games of Chance under SB75 this year. He noted the goal of these Bingo/Lucky 7 workshops was the same: clean up statutes that are not clear and make them more consistent.

Commissioner Presby stated that one change has been made to simplify the process for the operators. If the original game schedule has been approved by the Commission, the operator can make changes to the schedule without first needing approval from Licensing. As long as the change involves an approved game, no pre-approval is needed. (A list of all approved games can be found on the agency website). For the record, changes in schedule are to be attached to the financials sent in to the Commission.

Agenda Item #1: What constitutes a “bona fide” member for the operation of Bingo games?

Discussion ensued. Concerns/comments voiced:

- Church groups appear to have more leeway than other groups, such as rotary clubs
- Some charities do not have by-laws defining what constitutes a “member”
- Small charities use players to help run bingo
- What is the goal of having bona-fide members – to hurt or to help?

Agenda Item #2: Payments to others to run Bingo games or to pay others for specific duties (ie: Bingo callers).

Discussion ensued. Concerns/comments voiced:

- Sections a. and b. of RSA 287-E7 II appear to have some contradictions
- Games of Chance use/pay operators to run their games – why not allow Bingo to do the same?
- Charities that know nothing about Bingo – how can they participate? Who do they turn to?
- Training callers takes months – if payment will be allowed, it needs to be regulated. Callers will go where the money is and the smaller operators would lose out.
- Why not raise the current \$25 reimbursement fee to \$100?
- What exactly does “unless agreed to” in section b. actually mean?
- A fee structure will be needed if payments are allowed for specific duties

- Not all operators are created equal – those in the north country do not have the finances to pay others for specific duties

Agenda Item #3: Sale of Lucky-7 tickets: to whom, when and where

Discussion ensued. Concerns/comments voiced:

- If Lucky 7 tickets are allowed to be sold at Games of Chance venues, the charities on the Bingo side will lose money. Charities buy tickets from the distributors and if tickets are sold everywhere, they may be stuck with unsold tickets (which they have already paid for)
- Only Instant tickets would work in the poker halls (versus the carry-over coverall tickets)
- Lucky 7 tickets are the bread and butter of most bingo halls/social clubs. Making them available at other venues will hurt the bottom line
- The importance of specific house rules was stressed
- People who play Bingo are different than those who play Games of Chance

Discussion ensued on how to raise additional revenue for charities. Concerns/comments voiced:

- Finding a way to advertise bingo and games of chance
- Keeping lines of communication open between RCGC and the operators
- Raising the cost of tickets from 50 cents to \$1.00
- Lottery is the biggest competition for Bingo/Lucky 7 sales
- Allowing electronic pull tab machines
- Upping the current limits
- Looking into tiered games

Director Kelley asked that everyone with ideas/suggestions/concerns send him an email so these can be reviewed.

Another workshop will be scheduled in August – time and place to be announced.

The workshop ended at 11:40 a.m. with Commissioner Presby thanking everyone for attending.